STORIES ABOUT LENIN

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WHO THE TSAR WAS

This all happened long ago. Life was very different in Russia in those days.

Those who were wealthy had everything they could wish for, but the workers and peasants of Russia lived in poverty. Some of the rich owned great estates. They were the landlords, or landowners. Others owned factories and mills, and they were the capitalists.

The workers had nothing but their own two hands with which to work. They and their children needed food and clothing and a place to live. That was why the workers hired out to the factory and mine owners. They mined coal and ore deep underground. They smelted iron and steel to manufacture machines which belonged to the factory and mill owners and which made them richer still. The workers, however, were paid so little for their toil that they barely had enough money for bread.

The peasants owned tiny plots of land, and so their harvests were small. Quite often they could not raise enough crops to feed their families. That was why many peasants had to hire out to the

landowners. They plowed and sowed, and harvested the landowners' fields. Many peasants left for the cities to look for jobs in the factories and mills.

The Russian tsar was the richest landowner of all. He was the head of the State, and all the other landowners and factory owners were his subjects. The tsar ruled the country and made its laws. Under these laws the workers and peasants had to obey the tsar and their bosses, the landowners and capitalists.

The police, the gendarmes and the many officials defended the rule of the tsar and the rich. The tsar was the defender of the rich and the oppressor and murderer of the workers and the peasants.

That is who the tsar really was.

HOW THE PEASANTS LIVED UNDER THE TSAR

A peasant named Ivan, his wife Maria and their son Mitya lived in a village. Ivan had a very small plot of land which he plowed with a wooden plow. A skinny horse pulled the plow. The grain he harvested was never enough to last the family until the next harvest.

One day the village policeman came to Ivan's house and said, "Where's the money for the taxes you owe the tsar?"

Since Ivan had no money, he asked the village policeman to wait for the payment.

"If you don't pay up now, we'll sell your cow for taxes!" the policeman shouted.

"Please don't take our cow. If you do, we'll have no food for our boy," Ivan pleaded.

"Either you hand it over yourself, or I'll force you to and then I'll throw you into jail," the policeman replied and went for the cow.

Maria began to weep, for she knew she would have no milk for her son. Mitya became frightened. He hid behind his mother as the village policeman led off their cow. The other peasant families who had no money for taxes had to give the tax-collector a sheep or their chickens.

When Mitya got a little older his father said, "I can't support you any longer. You'll have to find a job."

Mitya became one of the landowner's shepherds. He had no time to go to school, and so he could not read or write. In those days most peasant children did not go to school, because they began working at an early age and because there were very few village schools.

HOW THE LANDOWNERS LIVED

There was a large estate near the village where Ivan and his family lived. A high stone fence surrounded the fine white mansion with columns, blocking it from the peasants' view. Each year the landowner and his family came to spend the summer here, for the grounds and the mansion belonged to him, as did the woods, the fields and meadows all around the village. He was the owner of all this land. His wife was a stout, well-dressed, stern-looking woman. The landowner had a son named Misha.

Misha had everything a child could dream of, to say nothing of good food. In winter Misha lived in town, where he went to school. Children of workers, peasants were never admitted to this school.

Misha was not allowed to play with the village children. They were poorly dressed and illiterate. Misha's parents kept telling him that he was of noble birth, while the peasants' children were common, ragged and dirty.

This Russian landowner and his family had a life of plenty, as did all the other landowners in those days.

HOW THE WORKERS USED TO LIVE

Ivan's brother Vasily lived in town. He worked in a munitions plant. His wife Anna was a weaver in a mill. They had a daughter named Masha. At the crack of dawn each day, when Masha was still asleep, Vasily and Anna would go off to work at their machines, returning home exhausted after dark.

All through the winter months Masha stayed indoors in the family's damp, dark rented room, for she had no warm clothes or shoes to wear outside. In the summertime she played in the dirty yard.

All the workers in Vasily's plant and all the women in the mill where Anna worked were as poor as they were, as were all the working people in the land.

Many people were out of work in those days. Being out of work meant dying of hunger, and that was why the rich could hire an unemployed man or woman and pay them next to nothing.

THE FACTORY AND MILL OWNERS

There was a large town house on the most fashionable street. Behind the house were a large garden, orchard and yard with stables for the family's fine horses and expensive carriages. The owner of the munitions plant where Vasily worked lived in this house.

He had a son and a daughter. Like the landowner's son, they, too, had everything they could wish for: good food and many expensive toys. They were first tutored privately at home and then went on to study at schools for the very rich.

HOW THE LANDOWNERS KEPT THE PEASANTS IN CHECK

One year the harvest was very poor. The peasants in the village had no grain and were starving, while nearby the landowner's granaries were filled to the top. The peasants went to the landowner to ask him for grain. They stood by the front steps, caps in hand, but the landowner would not even hear of it.

"Get out, all of you! I won't give you anything!" he shouted.

Ivan stepped forward and said, "We're only asking for what we've earned. You didn't plow or sow, or harvest that grain. We were the ones who did it for you."

"That's right!" one of the peasants shouted.

"He's telling the truth!" another said.

"So you want to rebel? You'll pay dearly for this!" the landowner raged and told his servants to grab Ivan. Ivan was then taken to town and thrown into prison. All the other peasants who had gone to the landowner's house to ask for grain were flogged.

WHY WORKERS WERE IMPRISONED

The munitions plant owner wanted to become still richer, and so he ordered his workers to work still faster.

"Don't agree to this," Vasily said to his comrades. "Let's all stop working at once. If we do, the machines will stop, and the boss will start losing money. Then he'll have to give in to our demands."

The workers stopped working, and the wheels of their machines came to a standstill. The workers went on strike. They stayed out one day, and another, and a third.

The plant owner called in the police. That night the police came to Vasily's room and arrested him. They took him off to jail, saying, "You're the ringleader. You told the workers to go on strike."

The other striking workers were thrown into jail, too.

That was how the factory owners kept the workers in check.

BRAVE FIGHTERS AGAINST THE TSARS

Many years ago the city of Leningrad was called St. Petersburg. That was where the Russian tsar's palace was. Alexander II was the tsar then. He helped the landowners and capitalists rule over the peasants and workers.

A group of brave men and women who wanted to help the working people came forth at this time. They had decided to get rid of the tsar. They said, "We must kill the tsar, for he supports the landlords and factory owners. If we kill him, the people will have a better life."

A worker named Stepan Khalturin smuggled some dynamite into the palace. There was an explosion, but the tsar escaped. Then other brave fighters threw a bomb into the tsar's carriage as he was driving through the streets of St. Petersburg and killed him. They were arrested and executed.

The dead tsar's son, Alexander III, now came to the throne. Russia had a new tsar, but nothing else had changed. The lot of the workers and the peasants had not improved one bit.

THE ULYANOV CHILDREN

The city of Ulyanovsk, which is situated on the bank of the Volga River, was once known as Simbirsk. That was where the Ulyanov family came from. The father, Ilya Ulyanov, was the director of the region's State schools. He wanted as many village children as possible to attend school. The mother, Maria Ulyanova, devoted all of her time to bringing up her six children: Anna, Alexander, Olga, Vladimir, Dmitry and Maria. Olga died in her youth, but all of the others became fighters for a better life for their people.

Alexander Ulyanov, the eldest son, was intelligent, kind and just. He knew how poor the people were and wanted to discover why this was so. Alexander left home to study at St. Petersburg University. There he became friends with other young students who were opposed to the tsar. They decided to kill Alexander III. However, their plans failed, and they were arrested.

The news of Alexander Ulyanov's arrest reached Simbirsk. He had been sentenced to death. Maria Ulyanova left for St. Petersburg, hoping to save her son's life, but she could do nothing. Alexander was executed.

VLADIMIR ULYANOV

Alexander's brother, Vladimir Ulyanov, was a secondary school senior at the time. He was a good pupil, read a lot and liked to play chess and to ice-skate.

When Vladimir learned of his brother's execution he was overcome with grief. Then he began to think about all that had happened. He understood Alexander. Indeed, one could sacrifice one's life for the good of the people. But was that really the best way to fight?

"It's not only a matter of being ruled by a tsar," Vladimir said to himself. "If you kill one tsar, the rich will simply put another one in his place. The tsar, the rich landowners and the capitalists are so powerful because they own the land, the factories and the mills. That means that the land, the factories and the mills should be given over to those who work. But how can this be done? Who will be able to do this?"

Vladimir studied hard. He spent much of his time reading and thinking. Then he, too, left for St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG, A CITY OF WORKERS

Vasily had been released from prison, but could not get his old job back.

"We don't want troublemakers," the manager said to him. Now Vasily was out of work. He could not find a job anywhere else in town, either.

That was why Vasily sold the family's belongings and used the money for train tickets. Anna, Masha and he

moved to St. Petersburg where there were many large factories and mills that employed thousands of workers. Vasily found a job in a large plant. Anna and Masha both went to work in a mill. Besides, Masha began attending an evening school for workers where she learned to read and write.

The family was now settled in St. Petersburg. They knew first-hand what hard lives the city's thousands of workers led. The bosses were robbing them by not paying them fair wages. However, although there were very few bosses, they had thousands of workers slaving for them. That meant the workers had to rise up against their bosses and fight till they won.

VLADIMIR ULYANOV AND HIS FRIENDS IN ST. PETERSBURG

In St. Petersburg Vladimir Ulyanov became acquainted with workers and students who wanted the working people to have a better life. They all admired the brave fighters against the tsar, but they saw that these fighters were being killed off one by one. That meant they had to lead the entire people against all of the country's rich.

Vasily Shelgunov and Ivan Babushkin, both workers, Gleb Krzhizhanovsky and Zinaida Nevzorova, two students, and Nadezhda Krupskaya, a teacher in an evening school for workers, became Vladimir Ulyanov's closest friends. They knew the life of the working people first-hand and had read a lot about the way workers in other countries were fighting for better conditions.

"We must go to the workers," they decided. "In the factories they work side by side. They know how to stand up for each other and how to organize strikes. We must help them unite their forces for the common struggle."

Vladimir and his friends organized workers' circles. There they spoke to the workers and explained why they were wrong in fighting against the owner of just one factory or mill instead of depriving all the landlords and all the capitalists of their wealth and power, because the workers and the peasants were the true masters of the land. Together the workers and peasants would form a great force. Together they could bring about a new, bright and happy future for all working people.

I. V. BABUSHKIN

B. I. ZINOVYEV

P. S. GRIBAKIN

N. G. POLETAYEV

Z. P. NEVZOROVA

N. K. KRUPSKAYA

M. I. KALININ

V. A. SHELGUNOV

G. M. KRZHIZHANOVSKY

VLADIMIR ULYANOV AT A WORKERS' CIRCLE

At the plant Vasily soon got to know a worker named Pavel. One day Pavel said to him, "Come to our meeting. You'll learn a lot of important things there. But be careful! If the tsar's gendarmes find out about the meeting, we'll all be arrested."

Vasily was there at the appointed hour. He recognized several of the other men who were from his plant. Then a young man arrived whom Vasily had never seen before. The young man had keen, intelligent brown eyes. He asked the workers to tell him about their living conditions. Then he began to speak.

"The capitalists are making you slave for them, comrades. The tsar and his officials defend the rich. They throw you into jail, because you don't want to live in poverty. You must unite and rise up against the tsar, the landlords and capitalists."

That was how Vladimir Ulyanov began his first lecture at the workers' circle. The members of this circle, all of whom were from Vasily's plant, met once a week to study together. Soon they began to understand that the workers' main task was to join forces against the rich and build a happy life for themselves.

Vladimir Ulyanov spoke at other workers' circles, too, as did his friends. They told the workers about the huge profits the bosses were making at their expense. They began printing leaflets and books about this.

The most progressive and bravest men and women belonged to these circles. If they were arrested they did not lose heart. The moment they were released or escaped from prison they would again join the fight against the tsar and the rich.

THE LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKING CLASS

Soon there were many workers' circles in St. Petersburg, but they were all independent of each other. Each circle had from five to seven members who only knew what was going on at their own factory or mill. However, it was important that the members of each circle know about the work of the other circles and of the way their comrades in other factories and mills were fighting against the bosses. This would make them all feel stronger. Then they could say, "See how many of us there are. We're all for one and one for all."

Vladimir Ulyanov and his friends now headed the work of all the workers' circles in St. Petersburg. In secret they organized the League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class. The members of the League knew that the tsar's supporters would be after them, would arrest and imprison them, but they were not afraid. The victory of the workers and the peasants was what mattered most.

Vladimir Ulyanov headed the work of the League. Although he was only 23 years old at the time, his comrades called him "Old Man". That was because he knew so much, because he could plan ahead and because he was able to put such spirit into their work.

VLADIMIR ULYANOV IN EXILE

By following Vladimir Ulyanov the tsar's police spies discovered that he was a revolutionary. He and his comrades were arrested. They spent over a year in prison before the trial and were then sentenced to exile in far-off Siberia. At the time Siberia was not at all like it is now: there were no large cities, no factories or mills there.

Vladimir Ulyanov was exiled to Shushenskoye, a village lost in the wilderness. It was a long journey from there to the nearest village. Yet, he did not become downhearted, for he knew the workers had not given up their struggle. One had to know a lot to win that struggle, and so Vladimir Ulyanov read many books while in exile. His sisters, his brother Dmitry and his friends all sent him books.

Vladimir Ulyanov also wrote many articles addressed to the workers. He was drawing up a plan of the future struggle. A plan that would unite the workers of the entire country and not only of a single city. He decided that they would have to have a workers' newspaper. It would unite them in their common struggle.

Nadezhda Krupskaya was also exiled. She was given permission to reside in Shushenskoye, and she and Vladimir Ulyanov were married there. From then on they carried on the fight together.

ISKRA

Little streams flow onward to form a river. Ever new streams and tributaries join the river, making it broad and mighty. When the working people began their struggle against the tsar and the rich it was like a river starting on its course.

At first, there were small secret workers' circles at some of the factories and mills. Then the members of the circles came to know each other and began working together, setting up new workers' organizations in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kiev, in the factory settlements in the Urals and in other parts of Russia. The members of these organizations were faithful comrades who would never betray their cause, no matter how great the danger. The time had come to unite all workers' circles in the country.

Vladimir Ulyanov's term of exile ended. Since he was not allowed to live in St. Petersburg, he settled in a nearby town and summoned his comrades there. They would decide on the publication of a newspaper Vladimir Ulyanov had thought about so much all during his exile.

They would not be able to publish a paper which told the people the truth about the hard life of the workers and the peasants and about their struggle against the tsar and the rich in Russia. That was why Vladimir Ulyanov went abroad and was joined by other comrades who shared his ideas. Soon they were putting out a newspaper. It was called *Iskra*, which means "The Spark". It was a difficult and dangerous task to smuggle the newspaper into Russia. Many of the people connected with the paper were imprisoned and exiled for this.

The workers of Russia now had their own newspaper. *Iskra* helped them to join their forces, which were growing from day to day as workers throughout the country united against the tsar and the factory owners.

ИСКРА

COMRADE LENIN

Vladimir Ulyanov was the editor-in-chief of *Iskra*. He worked long hours every day. In the morning the mailman would deliver a large packet of newspapers which he subscribed to. The newspapers were in Russian, English, German, French and Italian. Although Vladimir Ulyanov was a quick reader, he never left anything out or forgot what he might later use in his work. Vladimir Ulyanov also wrote very quickly. He wrote letters to his comrades in Russia and asked the workers to send in articles and questions to which they would like an answer to the newspaper. He also wrote articles and books.

The tsar's officials were afraid of Vladimir Ulyanov's articles and books. If gendarmes searched a worker's room and found a copy of *Iskra* or a book written by Vladimir Ulyanov they would arrest the worker and sentence him to prison or exile. That was why Vladimir Ulyanov began signing his articles and books with names that were not his own. One of the names he used was Lenin.

This became a name the workers revered and loved, for they knew that Lenin would always tell them the truth. And he did.

"Our struggle will be a very difficult one. The landowners and the capitalists will not give up their riches of their own free will," Lenin said.

The *Iskra* staff organized a congress of workers' organizations of Russia. The delegates to this congress discussed ways of fighting against the tsar and the rich and of bringing the peasants into their struggle so that together they could overcome their enemies. If they succeeded the land, factories and mills would then belong to the people. That meant the workers and peasants would be working for themselves and not for a handful of bosses.

At this congress the *Iskra* group, headed by Lenin, formed a party. This party was the vanguard of all working people fighting for communism.

К. МАРКС
КАПИТАЛЪ
ПРОЛЕТАРІ

HOW THE WORKERS TOOK UP ARMS

With each passing year life in Russia was becoming more difficult for the workers and the peasants. The tsar declared war on Japan, for the Russian landowners and factory owners wanted to gain new lands.

On January 9, 1905 the workers of St. Petersburg, their wives and children set out for the tsar's palace. They wanted to tell the tsar about their hard lives and their poverty. They thought the tsar would take pity on them, but instead he ordered his troops to open fire on them. Many people were killed that day. From then on even the most ignorant workers stopped thinking that the tsar would help them. They finally came to understand that only by fighting against the tsar would they ever have a better life.

Workers in many of the factories and mills of St. Petersburg went on strike. The tsar's troops were ordered to

open fire on them. How could the workers defend themselves? They began putting up road blocks to stop the soldiers. They used fallen telegraph poles, boards, barrels and anything else that came to hand.

"The workers are building barricades!" the people said and many helped them. Red flags waved on the barricades. The red of the flags symbolized the blood shed by the workers in their struggle for a better life. The lettering on the flags read:

"Freedom or death!", "Down with the tsar!"

The workers turned up paving stones and threw them at the soldiers, for there were not enough rifles and revolvers for all. Workers in other cities joined the fight against the tsar and his troops but they, too, were poorly armed.

Lenin appealed to all Party members and to all workers: "To arms! You must learn to shoot!" Money was collected for arms that were purchased abroad. Courageous Party members smuggled these arms into Russia, where they were distributed among the workers.

There were pitched battles on the streets of Moscow in which the workers fought valiantly.

In November Vladimir Lenin, using an alias, arrived in St. Petersburg where he spoke at mass meetings of workers and helped to strengthen and organize the Party's forces for the struggle ahead.

HOW THE PEASANTS TRIED TO GET RID OF THE LANDLORDS

There was unrest in the villages as well.

"Let's get rid of the landowner. He owns as much land as the peasants in ten villages do. He and his children are rolling in money, while our children go begging for bread," Ivan said to his fellow-villagers.

The peasants armed themselves with axes, scythes and fence poles and attacked the manor house. The landlord became frightened. He got into his carriage, and his fine horses carried him and his family off.

The peasants divided up the landlord's stores of grain. They plowed his land, and their children now played on the landlord's well-kept grounds.

Peasants in some villages chased out their landlords, but in many others they were afraid to do so, for they were still not united in their struggle.

LENIN KNEW THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS WERE STRONG

The factory owners and landlords appealed to the tsar for help, and the tsar told his soldiers not to spare their bullets in putting down the uprising.

The workers were poorly armed. They had too few rifles and revolvers, while the tsar's troops were armed with machine-guns and cannons. The peasants had no arms at all, nothing but pitchforks and scythes, and so the soldiers mowed them down, slashing them with their sabres and bayonetting them. Many workers were killed in the cities. Many peasants were killed in the villages, still greater numbers of workers and peasants were thrown into jails, exiled to places where they were sure to die or were executed. Vasily was killed at this time.

This uprising of workers and peasants was put down.

The tsar's police spies were looking high and low for Lenin. His comrades barely managed to conduct him safely abroad again. On a dark night Lenin was guided across the thin ice of the Bay of Finland and narrowly escaped drowning. Soon, however, he was back at his post of leading the Party and the workers' struggle.

Many believed that the workers would never win the battle against the tsar, the landowners and the capitalists. They said it had been a mistake for them to have taken up arms.

Lenin, however, said and wrote that the workers and the peasants were strong, that they had learned much from this uprising and must be better armed. He said the peasants should be better organized for the struggle ahead and that the workers and peasants should unite. Lenin said the struggle should not be forgotten and the people should prepare for still greater battles ahead.

WHY THE RULERS STARTED A WAR AMONG THE PEOPLES

There are many countries in the world inhabited by many peoples. At that time all the countries were ruled by kings or the rich, all of whom wanted to become still richer. That is why the capitalists of various countries warred against each other. They wanted to snatch each other's land and riches and make the conquered working people slave for them.

In 1914 the Russian tsar and the German Kaiser began such a war. The capitalists of other countries took sides and also sent their soldiers into battle. Mitya, Ivan's son, was called up for active service. At the front lines he was forced to kill young German and Turkish workers and peasants. They, in turn, slaughtered the Russian, English and French workers and peasants.

While the working people were being killed on the battlefields, the capitalists and rich landowners were living happy lives in their fine homes, selling their governments grain, cannons, rifles and other goods for the armies and making fortunes.

Lenin called upon the working people of all lands to end the war, to stop killing each other. He said they were all brothers and that they all had the same enemies: the capitalists and landowners, and their rulers. He called upon the soldiers to turn their guns against their common enemies.

The Communists of Russia agreed with this. They appealed to the workers, peasants and soldiers to turn their guns against the tsar and the rich. They circulated

leaflets and pamphlets in secret among the population and the soldiers at the front lines. One of these leaflets was passed on to Mitya in the trenches. After reading it he said, "Everything that's written here is the truth."

There were Germans, too, who spoke out against the war that was only making the capitalists richer. People in other countries said the same.

"Lenin is our true friend. He always speaks the truth." Workers, peasants and soldiers of many lands where Lenin's writings became known shared these thoughts.

THE WORKERS AND SOLDIERS OF RUSSIA GET RID OF THE TSAR

The war dragged on.

St. Petersburg was now called Petrograd. There was hunger in the city. Mothers would leave their homes at night to line up outside the bakeries. The lines were very long. The women would stand there all through the night, because at home their children were hungry. In the morning the bakeries would finally open, and bread would be rationed at two hundred grams for each person. The bread was of a very poor quality, because it was made of old flour. Even so, there was not enough to go around. There was a demonstration of working men and women.

"We want bread! Give us bread! Down with the tsar! Down with the tsar's war!" they shouted.

The tsar sent his troops to break up the demonstration, but instead the soldiers raised their rifles into the air and shouted, "End the war! Down with the tsar!"

The soldiers and workers of Russia united and overthrew the tsar. This was in February 1917. Although there was no more tsar, the landowners and capitalists set up their own government. They said to the people,

"There's no tsar any longer. Now we all have to join forces: landowners, factory owners, workers, soldiers and peasants, and build a new life. But in order to do this we must first win the war."

The workers and soldiers of Petrograd said, "No! The landowners and capitalists are our enemies. How can we join them? We do not want to fight to make them richer."

The workers in the factories and the soldiers in their regiments elected their own representatives. They organized the Soviets (Councils) of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies. They told their deputies they were to take over the governing of the country. Soon Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies were formed all over the country.

ХЛЪБА!

LENIN, THE WORKERS, SOLDIERS AND PEASANTS JOIN FORCES

Lenin was anxious to return to Russia, and although it was difficult to travel across countries that were at war, he was able to reach Petrograd in April 1917.

Workers from all over the city came to the station to meet him, as did many armed soldiers. There were also armored cars.

The moment Lenin appeared he was caught up and raised to the top of an armored car so that everyone might see and hear him.

Lenin told the workers and soldiers not to lay down their arms, for although they had overthrown the tsar, they still had to get rid of the capitalists and the landowners to take over the governing of the country.

Lenin and other Party members often spoke at mass meetings of workers and soldiers. Together they decided: the workers and soldiers were strong enough to take over the land, factories and mills and hand them over to the people. Then the Soviets of Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies would govern the country. The capitalists and landowners massed the last of their forces: the police, gendarmes and police spies. They wanted to arrest and murder Lenin, but the workers hid him safely away near Petrograd, on the bank of Lake Razliv. He was taken to a hut for mowers that had been set up on a meadow beside a haystack. From there he wrote to his comrades in Petrograd, saying that the time had come for the workers, soldiers and peasants to join forces and get rid of the capitalists and landowners. Then they would establish their own workers' and peasants' government.

ДА
ЗДРАВСТВУЕТЪ
ЛЕНИНЪ!

THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Soon it was autumn. Life in the trenches had become truly unbearable for the soldiers, and they decided to send a group of deputies to Lenin to ask his advice on how to end the war. Ivan's son Mitya was one of this group. When they arrived in Petrograd there was shooting in the streets. Workers, sailors and soldiers armed with rifles and machine-guns were all hurrying in the same direction. They were going to battle the troops defending the government of the landowners and capitalists. The lettering on the red banners they carried read: "Long Live the Workers' and Peasants' Revolution!", "All Power to the Soviets!", "End the War!"

"Where can we find Lenin?" Mitya asked.

"Go on to the Smolny. Lenin is directing the uprising from there," he was told.

Mitya found the Smolny. It was a great mansion that had once been a finishing school for the daughters of the nobility. Now it was the headquarters of the uprising.

Lenin was guiding the uprising from here. He worked around the clock. Dispatches from all over the city were brought here to him: the soldiers had taken over an ammunition depot; a detachment of workers was in control of the telephone exchange, which meant that orders could be given by telephone to all parts of the city; other workers' detachments had gained control of the central telegraph office and now the Smolny was in contact by telegraph with the entire country.

However, the members of the government of the rich would not surrender. They gathered in the tsar's Winter Palace and refused to obey the decisions of the Soviets.

The crew of the "Aurora" brought the cruiser up the Neva River and dropped anchor across from the Winter Palace. They fired blank shells, for they did not want to destroy the palace. At the same time detachments of workers and soldiers approached the Winter Palace from the city. They occupied the palace and arrested the members of the government of the rich. That put an end once and for all to the rule of the rich over the working people in Russia. The Great October Socialist Revolution had triumphed. This took place on October 25, 1917.

Each year the Soviet people celebrate this victory, as do the working people of all countries, for this victory marked the beginning of their victories.

LENIN, HEAD OF THE WORKERS' AND PEASANTS' GOVERNMENT

The workers, soldiers and peasants decided that they would govern the country through the Soviets of Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies. All working people would elect their deputies to the Soviets. That was how the Soviet Workers' and Peasants' Republic came into being. Lenin was elected head of the Soviet Government. For the first time in history workers and peasants had become their own masters.

There was so much to be done. The first and most important task was to put an end to the war. Lenin appealed to the working people of all the warring countries on behalf of the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia, calling upon them to sign a peace treaty.

In Soviet Russia the land that had belonged to the landowners was handed over to the peasants. In the villages the Soviets of Peasants' Deputies decided just how the land was to be divided up. First to be given land of their own were the poorest peasant families. Ivan was given a plot and a fine horse from the landowner's stables.

A factory or mill cannot be divided up. That is why all the factories and mills became the property of the people and were managed by the workers themselves. No longer did they slave from dawn to dusk as they had before the revolution. Now there was an eight-hour working day.

Lenin said it would be impossible to build a new life without proper knowledge, and so another important decision was taken: as many new schools as possible were to be opened, both for children and for adults; there were to be more libraries and reading rooms, not only in the cities, but in the villages as well; more newspapers and books were to be published.

The Communist Party decided to appoint Nadezhda Krupskaya to a post in the People's Commissariat of Education. She worked there all her remaining years, devoting her energies to seeing that all of the country's children were attending school, so that there would be no more illiterate or semiliterate people in the country; to establishing libraries everywhere; to making it possible for all Soviet people to know their civic rights and duties and thus to be able to take part in the work of the Soviets and understand the workings of their government.

THE UNION OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS

The war ended, but there was hunger, poverty and ruin in Soviet Russia. The factories and mills were closed down, the fields were barren, the railroads and locomotives were wrecked.

Masha went to work in a factory that produced farm machinery. She said, "If we make metal plows for the peasants they won't have to use wooden plows. They'll be able to plow deeper, and there'll be more food for the people."

Mitya returned home to his native village, where the landowner's fields had been divided up among the peasants.

Mitya had seen much in the years he had been away. He had met with workers and visited factories. He had

seen that although there were many workers in a factory, each had his own task to do and each did his share to complete a job. This made the work go faster.

"The peasants should join their small plots and farm the land together," the workers had said to him. "They'll raise much bigger crops that way. Then there'll be much more food in the country, enough for the peasants and also for the workers, teachers, doctors and all the Soviet people."

Mitya took their advice. He organized a commune in his village. The members of the commune joined their plots and set up one great farm. They divided the various jobs among them: some plowed and sowed, others tended the horses and still others worked in the smithy. Each had his own job to do.

Lenin knew how hard the people had to work and he did, too, never sparing himself. He said that as long as all the working people of the Soviet Republic helped each other they would overcome the ruin caused by the war.

Lenin's words came true. The peasants reaped greater harvests. The factories and mills were coming back to life, and the railroads were beginning to function again. Trains were now carrying grain and farm produce to the cities and returning with things the peasants needed so badly. Now there was good farm machinery for their fields.

LENIN AND THE RED ARMY

The former landowners, factory and mill owners wanted to go on living in luxury, and so they declared war on the Soviet Republic. The capitalists of other countries helped them by giving them great sums of money and arms, and by sending troops into the Soviet Republic.

The Soviet workers and peasants said, "We'd rather die than live as we did before! We'll defend our Soviet State!"

Lenin appealed to the workers and peasants of the country to create an army that would be able to defend the Soviet Republic.

Thousands of young workers and peasants volunteered for active service in the Red Army. They fought under red banners against their old enemies, and these red banners gave the people's army its name.

The war lasted for several years, and all through it the Red Army troops fought bravely.

Lenin liked to talk with the young Red Army men and commanders. He liked to listen to their songs and especially to one which had the following refrain:

Never, never,
Never, never
Will the Communards be slaves!

Workers in other countries tried to help the Red Army as best they could: they refused to load shells for the foreign troops that were fighting against the Soviet people; some British and French soldiers and sailors refused to fight against the Red Army and went over to the side of Soviets.

The Red Army destroyed its enemies. From then on it has protected the borders of the Soviet Republic.

A TRUE FRIEND OF THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF THE WORLD

At the time only the working people of the Soviet Republic were their own masters, although the working people of other lands wanted to get rid of their rulers, too.

Lenin addressed the Communists of all countries and suggested that they gather in Moscow and discuss how to fight the capitalists. The Soviet workers and peasants were ready to help their brothers. Soon delegates of working people from many lands began meeting there.

How did these brave people reach Moscow? Here is but one example. A ship was plying its way from England to Germany. The sailors had hidden one of the delegates deep in the hold where coal for the ship's furnaces was stored. It was not easy to smuggle food to him during the journey. In Germany the sailors helped him slip past the German police.

In the face of great danger and with great difficulty many delegates reached Moscow. The return trip was still more difficult, for the police in the different countries were searching for everyone who had been to Moscow. If the delegates were found they were arrested, beaten, sentenced to hard labor and even put to death.

Still, this did not stop the Communists of other countries. They continued coming to Moscow to meet at their congresses. Lenin helped the foreign comrades to understand how they could improve the lives of the working people in their own countries and throughout the world.

"Workers of the world, unite!" was their slogan.

LENIN IS REMEMBERED AND REVERED BY WORKING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Lenin was a strong man. To keep healthy he did exercises even when he was in prison, because he knew he would need a lot of strength for the struggle ahead. An attempt was made on Lenin's life by enemies of the Soviet Republic. He was gravely wounded. Lenin recovered and continued working very hard. Then his condition took a turn for the worse. He became seriously ill.

Lenin was taken to the village of Gorki not far from Moscow. His doctors thought he would recover there. But

on January 21, 1924 the country learned the terrible news: Comrade Lenin had died.

Thousands of working men and women came to the funeral. Thousands of peasants came in from the villages. When Lenin was being laid to rest in the Mausoleum on Red Square in Moscow factory whistles throughout the country blew a last farewell. Every train and vehicle in the country came to a standstill for one long minute. News of the death of the workers' great leader spread quickly throughout the world. There was not a single country in which the working people did not grieve.

Lenin is no longer with us, but he is remembered by working people all over the world. His memory is revered. The cause he fought for is their cause.

As Lenin lay mortally ill he dictated his last articles, instructing the Soviet people to work hard for a good life for the working people in the Soviet Union and the world and to build a communist society.

LENIN'S BEHESTS

TO LOVE AND SAFEGUARD THE SOVIET LAND

Every person loves his native land, the country where he was born and grew up. He loves its fields, forests, rivers, cities and villages. Lenin also loved his native land, Russia. He loved the Volga River and the city of St. Petersburg with its large factories and mills, but he felt especially close to the workers and peasants of Russia. They fought stubbornly for their liberation. Many staunch Communists came from their ranks. The Communist Party was always in the vanguard of this struggle against the capitalists and landowners. Although many fell in the battle, many more brave men and women continued the fight.

The workers and peasants of Soviet Russia were the first in the world to create a nation without a tsar, a king, landowners or capitalists and to govern it themselves. The Red Army defended Soviet power from the attacks of the capitalists. Lenin devoted all his energies to making Soviet Russia strong, to providing support for the working people of all countries. He instructed the Soviet people to love their Soviet land and to safeguard it.

Many years passed after Lenin's death.

In 1941 the fascists, German capitalists who were the working people's greatest enemies, attacked the Soviet Union. While the Soviet Army fought bravely on the battlefields, the entire Soviet people helped their army by working in defense plants and producing as much food as possible on the collective farms.

The Soviet people destroyed the fascist armies and defended their Motherland. No one can conquer it. The Soviet Army is stronger than ever now. The Soviet people have worked hard to increase the might of their nation, for they know that if the Soviet Army and the Soviet Union are strong, no one will ever be able to prevent them from building a communist society.

TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE WORKING PEOPLE OF ALL LANDS

There is a holiday which we especially like and that is May Day. May 1st is Solidarity Day among working people of all lands.

"Workers of the world, unite!"

"Freedom and equality for all peoples!"

These words can be heard all over the world. They are spoken in many tongues by people of all races.

Lenin did much to help the working people of the world understand and know each other. He taught the Soviet people to be friends with the working people of all countries, to help them in their struggle for freedom. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people will always support their struggle.

During Lenin's lifetime the workers and peasants of one country only, of Russia, overthrew the capitalists and came to govern their own land. Now there are other such nations and their number is growing. Some of the most oppressed peoples of the world have won their freedom.

There are many young Africans attending college and university in the Soviet Union, where there is no and never has been any race prejudice. These young Africans come from countries which have but recently gotten rid of their white capitalist rulers.

The Soviet Union helps these and other countries which have won their freedom to build electric power stations, factories, schools and hospitals. Our ships sail to Africa, Asia and Cuba, delivering trucks, machinery and many other things people who are building a new way of life need.

The capitalists still govern many countries of the world.

They would like to destroy the Soviet Union and the other countries from which the capitalists have been banished. Yet, they dare not start a new war, for they know the Land of Soviets is strong and is supported by other countries that have won their freedom. Besides, the working people of those nations in which the capitalists still rule are against war. The working people of the world say, "There shall be no war! The peoples of all nations want peace and friendship."

However, there is still much to be done to bring everlasting peace to the world. Peace on Earth means the working people of all lands will have a bright future and communism will become a reality.

PLENTY FOR ALL

As twilight falls we go over to the switch on the wall and turn on the light. But how does electricity come into the room?

"That's easy," you will say. "It comes along the wires that are strung from the poles outside our house."

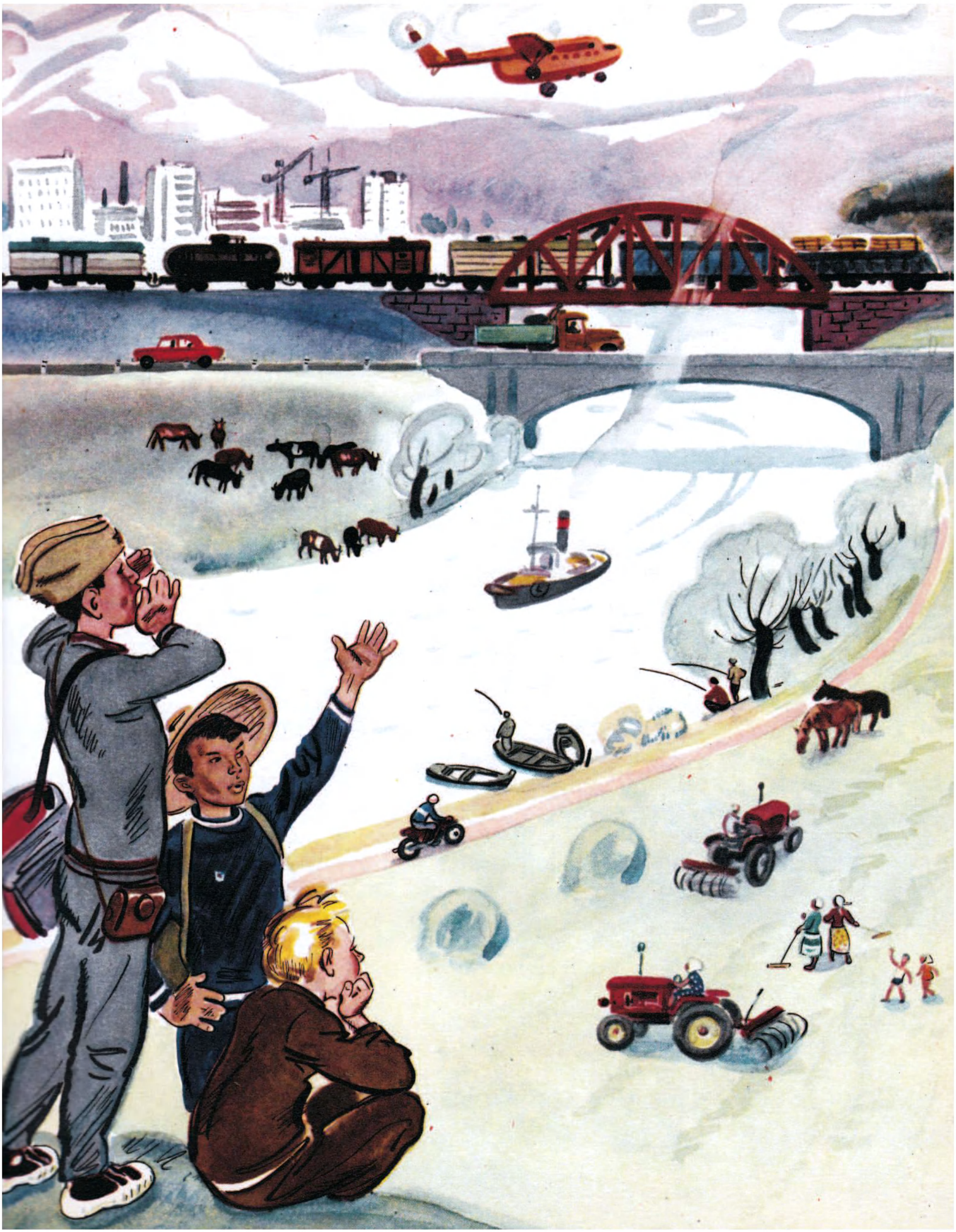
But where do the wires come from? From electric power stations where great generators produce electricity. Electricity does not only bring light to houses, schools and hospitals. Electricity puts trains, ships and machinery into motion. Some machines work underground, helping miners to mine coal or ore; others pump oil to the surface; still others make work in the fields easier.

In the factories machines help man to make buses, automobiles, airplanes and so many other things they cannot even be enumerated. In the factories and mills machines weave cloth for our clothing, sew shoes, print books, bind notebooks and make many things we need every day. Farm machinery makes it possible to raise good crops and to have an abundance of produce. Machines make our lives easier. It takes a lot of

electricity to run all these machines. This means there must be many electric power stations, both big and small.

Before the revolution and the establishment of Soviet power there were no large electric power stations in Russia. Soon after Lenin became the head of the government he summoned the country's leading scientists and engineers and asked them to draw up a plan of the electric power stations the country needed. They drew up such a plan. Since then Soviet scientists, engineers, technologists and workers have been building the world's largest electric power stations, giving the country ever more new machinery for the factories and mills and the fields of the collective and state farms. With their help the Soviet people have built spaceships which have taken man far into space.

There are many electric power stations, factories, mills and machines in the Soviet Union, but the country still needs more to achieve Lenin's dream of plenty for all. Only then will it be possible to build a communist society.



MORE KNOWLEDGE AND GREATER SKILL

People who think that machines will start doing all the work for us, so that we'll only have to push buttons, are wrong. Man with his skilled hands and fine mind always was and always will be the main working force. Man makes machines and man controls them. One must know a lot to design even the simplest machine. Besides, one can control a machine only if one knows how it works.

Just think how hard the famed Soviet cosmonauts have to study for their flights. If they did not, they could never achieve their amazing feats in space. They continue to study even after their flights.

Scientists are constantly discovering new facts about man and nature. All this new information has to be studied to be understood, otherwise we will not really know what is correct and what is incorrect. We shall not be able to work as well as we might have otherwise, and our lives will not be made as easy as they might have been.

Lenin was extremely interested in all the latest scientific and technological developments. He wanted to know about the modern machines that were being invented in the Soviet Union and abroad. If possible, he would go to see a new machine and ask to be told about the way it worked.

Lenin was concerned about the younger generation acquiring as much knowledge as possible. He wanted schoolchildren to learn what working in a factory or in the fields was like. He wanted them be a help to their elders, to know about tools and machinery. More knowledge and greater skill were needed to build a communist society. This was Lenin's behest.

LENIN'S CAUSE AND COMMUNISM WILL TRIUMPH!

Now you have read this book and discovered how the grandfathers and grandmothers of today's Soviet children worked and struggled for a life without a tsar, capitalists or landowners and how their fathers and mothers are building a communist society.

You have learned just a little bit about Vladimir Lenin, the closest friend, comrade, leader and teacher of all working people, and about the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. You have learned that life is constantly changing for the better for those who work. Very much has been achieved in the Soviet Union. All of its children are well-fed and well-clothed. Every child attends school. However, much must still be done in order that there be more of everything and that children in all countries have a good life, too.

Soviet children are the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of peasants like Ivan and workers like Vasily. They are the ones who will carry on their cause.

Even now they are doing a lot of good. It is important to think of others and be their friend, to be kind to smaller children, to be a good pupil and a help to one's parents, for each Soviet child is a part of the large and friendly society of Soviet people.

Lenin wanted all Soviet children to be healthy, happy and educated citizens of the new society. Together with their people, they will build communism, which is the most just and happiest way of life.

LENIN'S CAUSE AND COMMUNISM WILL TRIUMPH!

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